THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Doha Round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which began in 2001, is still underway. Negotiations under this Round are yet to resume formally following the winter break at the WTO in December 2008.

(b) During interactions with various US officials, including the US Secretary of State and the US Trade Representative in June 2009, India emphasised that in the present times of economic crisis, the best way to improve the situation was through greater economic engagement and not by adopting protectionist measures as was being done by some major economies.

(c) India is committed to a rule-based, multilateral trade regime which is fair and equitable and towards this end, an early conclusion of the Doha Round is important; however, the core concerns of the Round, namely, the development concerns of developing countries, have to be addressed.

Steps to boost Country's Exports

1193. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to miss $200 bn export target set for 2009-10 by more than 10 per cent owing to continued demand contraction in overseas market specially in the US and Europe etc. as estimated by the Ministry for the current fiscal;

(b) if so, whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce in its preliminary assessment on 'target versus reality' has stated that the downward revision of export target in 2008-09 to be $175bn and the total export proceed for the current fiscal would not be over $180bn; and

(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to boost India's exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) While announcing the Trade Facilitation Measures on 26th February, 2009, the Government fixed an export target of US $ 200 Billion for the year 2009-10.

On account of continuing global financial crisis and economic slowdown of developed economies, the target of US $ 200 Billion is unlikely to be achieved.

(b) The Associated Chamber of Commerce had earlier indicated a minimum US $ 40 billion exports shortfall for the fiscal year 2008-09.

(c) The Government and the RBI are closely monitoring both the domestic and international economic developments. Government has announced measures in the stimulus packages and in the Budget 2009-10, particularly for the exporting sector, to arrest the decline in exports. These measures are given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended ito answers USQ 1176 Part (a) to (c)]